

Timeline TVA History by Month

(The yellow highlighted list of events below is not attributed to specific months.)

TVA establishes Live Well Centers to promote employee health and fitness 1990

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant ranks 2nd in the nation and 8th in the world in overall annual power generation 1990

Nine economic development centers open across the Tennessee Valley 1995

JANUARY

Construction of Chickamauga Dam begins Jan. 13 1936

Construction begins on Fontana Dam Jan. 1 1942

Fontana Dam operational Jan. 20 1945

Construction of Shawnee Steam Plant begins Jan. 20 1951

Colbert Steam Plant operational Jan. 18 1955

Nottely Dam operational Jan. 10 1956

FEBRUARY

Power service begins to city of Tupelo, Mississippi, under first TVA wholesale power contract Feb. 7 1934

Construction of South Holston Dam begins Feb. 1 1942

Douglas Dam construction begins for national defense purposes Feb. 2 1942

Watts Bar Dam operational Feb. 11 1942

Construction of Watauga Dam begins Feb. 16 1942

Largest TVA construction blast at the South Holston Dam site (1,300,000 pounds of explosive used to loosen an estimated 1,700,000 cubic yards of stone) Feb. 5 1949

South Holston Dam operational Feb. 13 1951

TVA transfers to State of Tennessee 226 small waterfront public access areas on nine reservoirs in Tennessee, permanently assuring public access to and from federal reservoirs. Feb. 6 1953

Kingston Steam Plant becomes operational as the world's largest coal-burning power plant at the time Feb. 8 1954

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee receives full-power operating license Feb. 7 1996

MARCH

Test-demonstration work begins in Valley States using TVA concentrated phosphate	Mar.		1935
Construction of Pickwick Landing Dam started	Mar.	8	1935
Chickamauga Dam operational	Mar.	4	1940
Lend-lease shipments of phosphates to Britain started	Mar.	1	1942
Watts Bar Steam Plant operational	Mar.	16	1942
Douglas Dam operational after just 12 months, 17 days of construction	Mar.	21	1943
Construction of Widows Creek Steam Plant started	Mar.	28	1950
Boone Dam operational	Mar.	16	1953
TVA records the 60-millionth visit to its dams and steam plants since operations began in 1933	Mar.	31	1955
Construction begins on Cumberland Steam Plant	Mar.	4	1968
Cumberland Steam Plant operational	Mar.	1	1973
The largest regulated flood in the Chattanooga area – 37 feet -- since the completion of the TVA reservoir system.	Mar.	18	1973
Snail darters successfully transplanted from Tellico Dam Area	Mar.		1980
First of nine part-time TVA Board members sworn into office	Mar.	31	2006

APRIL

Cherokee Dam operational	Apr.	16	1942
Ocoee No. 3 Dam operational	Apr.	30	1943
Kentucky Lake impounded, completing the 650-mile-long navigation channel from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Paducah, Kentucky, and linking the Tennessee Valley with the 20-state inland waterway system	Apr.	8	1945
Construction of Kingston Steam Plant begins	Apr.	30	1951
Shawnee Steam Plant operational	Apr.	9	1953
Construction begins on Bull Run Steam Plant	Apr.	2	1962
Construction begins on Sequoyah Nuclear Plant	Apr.	1	1969
The “Valley Adventure” barges begin six-month tour of the Tennessee Valley region as part of TVA’s 50 th Anniversary celebration	Apr.	1	1983

MAY

President Roosevelt signs the TVA Act (Public 17, 73 rd Cong., 48 Stat 58)	May	18	1933
Hiwassee Dam operational	May	21	1940
Large-scale production of ammonium nitrate for fertilizer use begins at Muscle Shoals	May	20	1943
Construction of Johnsonville Steam Plant begins	May	12	1949
Construction of Fort Patrick Henry Dam begins	May	14	1951
Construction begins on Gallatin Steam Plant	May	11	1953
TVA 25 th Anniversary open house at dams and steam plants	May	18	1958
Allen Steam Plant operational	May	22	1959
President Kennedy speaks at TVA 30 th Anniversary Ceremony in Muscle Shoals	May	18	1963
Paradise Steam Plant operational	May	19	1963
President Jimmy Carter speaks to TVA employees at Knoxville Civic Coliseum	May	22	1978
U.S. Post Office issues stamp commemorating TVA's 50 th Anniversary	May	18	1983
Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 achieves full-power operation	May	24	1991
Watts Bar Unit 1 reaches 100 percent power for first time	May	9	1996
TVA Board approved returning Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Unit 1 to service	May	16	2002
Second-highest flood stage at Chattanooga in TVA's history; TVA averts more than \$400 million in estimated damage in the Chattanooga area alone.	May	7	2003
Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) completed	May		2004
TVA restarts Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Unit 1, the nation's first nuclear unit to begin commercial operation in the 21 st century.	May	22	2007
TVA celebrates its 75 th anniversary	May	18	2008
JUNE			
First meeting of the TVA Board, whose members were Arthur E. Morgan, Harcourt A. Morgan, and David E. Lilienthal	June	16	1933
Pickwick Landing Dam operational	June	29	1938
Federal government sells Town of Norris, Tennessee, to private owners for \$2,107,500	June	15	1948
TVA and National Fertilizer Association sign Memorandum of Understanding for exchange of technical information	June	13	1951
TVA Board decides to build first TVA nuclear power plant at Browns Ferry in Alabama	June	17	1966

Bull Run Steam Plant operational	June	12	1967
Director John B. Waters completes a "Voyage for the Valley", a 650-mile inspection of the Tennessee River	June	13	1990
TVA sells power bonds on the global market for the first time	June		1995
President George W. Bush visits Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant to congratulate TVA on bringing the first nuclear unit on-line in the 21 st century	June	21	2007
JULY			
Construction begins on Hiwassee Dam	Jul.	15	1936
Norris Dam operational	Jul.	28	1936
Construction of Kentucky Dam begins	Jul.	1	1938
Construction of Watts Bar Dam begins	Jul.	1	1939
Construction of Fort Loudoun Dam begins	Jul.	8	1940
In response to wartime needs, emergency power conservation program begins	Jul.	1	1941
Construction of Appalachia, Chatuge, Nottely, and Ocoee No. 3 dams begins	Jul.	17	1941
One-millionth consumer added to TVA power system	Jul.	28	1949
Widows Creek Steam Plant operational	Jul.	1	1952
John Sevier Steam Plant operational	Jul.	12	1955
TVA announces that strip mine land reclamation requirements will be included in future coal-purchase contracts	Jul.	27	1965
Major power conservation program begins in response to national energy shortage	Jul.		1973
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant operational	Jul.	1	1981
Wetlands Research and Development Facility opens in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, to develop strategies for reducing water pollution and other environmental dangers	Jul.	10	1992
Olympic Games Whitewater Slalom events are held on the Ocoee River	Jul.		1996
AUGUST			
TVA Board adopts its initial Power Policy	Aug.	25	1933
Construction begins on Cherokee Dam	Aug.	1	1940
TVA signs general labor agreement with Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council, composed of 15 trade unions affiliated with the AFL	Aug.	6	1940
Construction begins on Watts Bar Steam Plant	Aug.	8	1940

Watauga Dam operational	Aug.	30	1949
Construction of Boone Dam begins	Aug.	29	1950
Construction begins on Allen Steam Plant	Aug.	6	1956
President Eisenhower signs into law an amendment to the TVA Act making TVA's power system self-financing	Aug.	6	1959
First general increase in TVA power rates	Aug.	31	1967
Browns Ferry Unit 1, TVA's first nuclear power unit, operational	Aug.	1	1974
TVA meets all-time record power demand of 33,499 megawatts	Aug.	16	2007
SEPTEMBER			
Amory Water & Electric begins service in north Mississippi	Sept.	2	1934
President Roosevelt dedicates Chickamauga Dam	Sept.	2	1940
Appalachia Dam operational	Sept.	22	1943
Kentucky Dam operational	Sept.	14	1944
Construction begins on Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant	Sept.	12	1966
TVA Police commissions 125 former Public Safety Officers as federal police offers	Sept.	12	1995
Federal appropriations for TVA's non-power programs end	Sept.	30	1999
OCTOBER			
Construction begins on Norris Dam	Oct.	1	1933
First Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp assigned to Tennessee Valley to concentrate on erosion control and tree planting	Oct.	17	1933
President Truman dedicates Kentucky Dam	Oct.	10	1945
Construction of Colbert Steam Plant begins	Oct.	15	1951
Johnsonville Steam Plant operational	Oct.	27	1951
Construction begins on John Sevier Steam Plant	Oct.	14	1952
TVA Board creates the Office of the Inspector General	Oct.		1985
Tom Kilgore named TVA President and first Chief Executive Officer	Oct.	13	2006
NOVEMBER			
Construction begins on Wheeler Dam	Nov.	21	1933

Operation of electric phosphorus furnace, used to make fertilizers, begins at Muscle Shoals	Nov.	7	1934
TVA nurseries begin distributing tree seedlings for reforestation and erosion control	Nov.	15	1934
President Roosevelt visits Norris Dam	Nov.	16	1934
Wheeler Dam operational	Nov.	9	1936
Fort Loudoun Dam operational	Nov.	9	1943
Gallatin Steam Plant operational	Nov.	8	1956
Construction begins on Paradise Steam Plant	Nov.	2	1959
TVA issues first power bonds	Nov.	15	1960
Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc. (BVI), chartered	Nov.	22	1975
TVA announces a record \$447 million in tax equivalent payments to state and local governments	Nov.	29	2007

DECEMBER

Construction begins on Guntersville Dam	Dec.	4	1935
Celebration in Murray, Kentucky, marking jointly the planting of the two-millionth tree in Calloway County and the 200-millionth tree in the Tennessee Valley	Dec.	5	1949
Fort Patrick Henry Dam operational	Dec.		
		5	
			1953
Chatuge Dam operational	Dec.	9	1954
Construction begins on Watts Bar Nuclear Plant	Dec.	26	1972
Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 signed into law, changing the structure of the TVA Board and creating the position of Chief Executive Officer	Dec.	8	2004